THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item relates to report of poaching in Himachal Pradesh and action is being taken by the State Government to conserve the wild fauna.

The following steps have been taken to control poaching and to improve conservation efforts:

(i) A new centrally sponsored scheme has been recently approved entitled "Assistance for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife" under which financial assistance would be provided to the States to counteract poaching.

(ii) Wildlife Division in the Ministry of Environment and Forests is being strengthened, mainly for enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Amendments have been made in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to ban trade in animals considered to be endangered and products deprived therefrom.

(iv) Coordination and liaison with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Armed Forces, Customs, Coast guards has been increased for better enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

(v) Financial assistance to the national parks, sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves has been enhanced.

(vi) Another new centrally sponsored scheme has been approved to give assistance to States for captive breeding and rehabilitation of certain selected endangered species.

Infiltration, smuggling and spying activities by Pakistani nationals in Kutch

369. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale infiltration, smuggling of drugs and fire arms spying activities by Pakistani nationals in Kutch (Gujarat) assuming alarming proportions with the rise of the population of villages bordering Pakistani mostly by Pakistani nationals;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the situation; if so, what is the percentage of rise in the population of the Kutch villages bordering Pakistan and what percentage of the population has been identified as Pakistani nationals;

(c) under what circumstances the Paktani nationals were granted Indian citizenship and the voting rights; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to identify their Indian links helping their infiltration, smuggling and spying activities and what are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

"भगीरथ" का प्रकाशन

370. **श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा** : क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्र यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रकाशन प्रभाग द्वारा "भगीरथ" का प्रकाशन समाप्त किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) प्रकाशन प्रभाग द्वारा हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी में इस लोकप्रिय पत्रिका का प्रकाशन पुनः आरम्भ किये जाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) सूचना संवर्ग में "भगीरथ" के कर्मचारीवृन्द को खपाने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?